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# The Festival of Sakura



AR away in Japan, each spring there occurs a National Festival that for sheer beauty and romantic charm has no counterpart in any other country in the world. It is called the Fete of Sakura, or Cherry-Blossom Festival.

When the blooms are in their full glory—and the Japanese, old and young, great and lowly, await the event with keen anticipation as the first colorful evidence of spring—the

people of Tokyo pour across the bridges, over the canals, and thence to their holiday under the double rows of cherry trees at Mukojima. Elsewhere throughout the land it is the same. Business stops, and even the Legislature adjourns, in order that everyone may have leisure to enjoy the colorful Fete of the Flowering Cherries.

In this paradise of delicate pink and white blossoms, forming a widespread canopy that the warm spring wind gradually transforms in a gentle shower of dancing tinted petals, to a pink-white carpet of gay patterns, the laughing throng of merry men, women and children promenade in their brightly colored costumes, or rest beneath the arching branches in an exquisite Orchard of Blooms.

At nightfall, tired but happy, they betake themselves to the Chaya or tea-house, nestled in a fragrant bower of Flowering Cherries, for refreshment, gossip and rest. Such an interlude is for these beauty-loving folk a spiritual nectar.

# A Quaint and Charming Legend

According to Japanese folk-lore, the Cherry Tree itself is a lovely princess, named Konohana Sakuya-Hime, reincarnate; the color of the flowers being that of the blushes which suffused the cheeks of this dainty, bewitching damsel. From this pretty legend is derived the name "Sakura," now universally applied to the Cherry Tree in Japan. The word "Sakura," translated, means "Blossom of Happiness" or "Blossom of Good Luck." To the Japanese, Sakura are, when presented to their friends, "Gifts of Good Luck."

A learned scholar, Doctor Okakura Hoshisaburo, has written: "To symbolize Japan and her people I believe even Buddha would choose a little bunch of cherry tree blooms. They seem to tell all the stories of Japanese thought and personality. The plum tree, ume; the peony, botan; the chrysanthemum, kiku, while beautiful, are all, as their names indicate, imported from China. Sakura is the typical flower of Japan; with our classical writers and poets it is always the flower of Japan."



To those remarkable gardeners who built the superb gardens of the Daimios, the feudal lords of Japan, is due the honor of creating, through centuries of skillful effort, the ideal in blossom, leaf, branch and bark that now marks the Japanese Flowering Cherry Tree as a growth of super-excellence.

# The Emperor's Garden Party

The Annual Garden Party of the Emperor of Japan, inaugurated in the Ninth Century, is famed throughout the world for its floral splendor, in which the Sakura predominate. As a social function it brings about the most brilliant assemblage seen at the Royal Palace during the entire round of the four seasons.

Upon all those Americans who have been privileged to attend this affair, and to observe the coincident Fete of Sakura, the wonderful beauty of the Cherry Blossoms has left a deep and lasting impression.

To Miss E. R. Scidmore, a distinguished writer and authority on things Japanese, who had experienced both, is due much of the credit for the idea of planting the Japanese Flowering Cherry Trees in Potomac Park at Washington. A visit to the home of Dr. David Fairchild, who imported a large number of the trees from Japan in 1902, and who established in 1906, at his place "In The Woods,"



near Chevy Chase, Maryland, the first large collection of Japanese Cherry Trees in America, assured Miss Scidmore of the practicability of her plan. For several years she besought the powers-that-be, but without avail.

In 1909, Mrs. William Howard Taft became the First Lady of the Land, and Miss Scidmore's suggestion received a sympathetic reception, as Mrs. Taft, too, had lived in Japan at one time. A careful search of American nurseries brought but eighty trees to light, however, and these, when planted under Mrs. Taft's direction near the present location of the Lincoln Memorial, were pitifully few.

# A Gift of Happiness

The matter came to the attention of the noted Japanese chemist, of New York, Doctor Jokichi Takamine, who at once interested himself in the matter. After one unsuccessful attempt in 1910, the then Mayor of Tokyo and his Council, advising with the scientific plant men of Japan, carefully selected and developed three thousand trees of several beautiful varieties. This shipment reached the United States, and eventually Washington, in the Spring of 1912, and so uniformly perfect were the trees in every way that they elicited the unbounded admiration of American plant experts.

On March 12, 1912, in the presence of officials and dignitaries of the United States, and the Japanese Ambassador and his entourage, Mrs. Taft accepted the gift on behalf of this country as a token of friendship and international courtesy, and a symbol of Japanese character and love of beauty, and planted the first tree. Baroness Chinda, wife of the Japanese Ambassador, planted its counter-part during the ceremony.

# Annual Rebirth of the Blossoms

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So famous have become the Japanese Flowering Cherry Trees of the Potomac, that many spring visitors to Washington time their trips to enjoy this truly magnificent spectacle; some who have visited the Nation's Capital at other times, return for the Cherry Blossoms; while annual spring pilgrimages to Washington coincident with Blossom Time are regular events for many eastern schools. The

Flowering Cherry Trees of the Potomac have truly achieved international fame.

And now, with the first warm winds of spring, the pink and white blossoms of thousands of Flowering Cherry Trees stand out against the gleaming marble whiteness of the monuments to Washington and Lincoln, and the verdant green of Potomac Park. For miles along the drives these trees are scattered, growing each year more beautiful, and attracting more and more visitors.

Marvels of grace and delicacy, the exquisite, fine-textured pink and white petals of the Sakura radiate a pervasive charm not found in any other blossom. Strange it is, indeed, that such a seemingly fragile bloom should spring from so sturdy a tree, but time has demonstrated that the Flowering Cherry Tree is hardy enough to be successfully propagated and grown in almost any part of the United States where the European Sweet Cherry can be grown.



# To Spread the Beauty of the Blossoms

Mr. M. G. Coplen, owner of the Rock Creek Nurseries, at Rockville, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, for many years took keen delight in the marvelous scenic beauty of the Cherry Blossoms in Potomac Park, and even secured buds of several varieties from the original Japanese plantings, cultivating and propagating them in his own nurseries. With the success of these experiments came an inspiration.

To many visitors to Washington the Cherry Blossoms have proved a lasting memory. To millions of others throughout the country, the Cherry Blossoms are but words and pictures. Why not afford to all an opportunity to enjoy, in a living tree the beauty of the Flowering Cherry Trees?

And so, it is now possible for those who have enjoyed or read of this wonderful spectacle to have for their own Estates or Gardens, or for visitors to Washington to send to their friends at home who have been denied the joy of viewing them, living, visual mementoes of the fragrance and beauty of the Japanese Flowering Cherry Trees of Washington.

# The First Color of Spring

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Blooming early in the Spring, the Japanese Flowering Cherries bring one of the first touches of color to the garden. They can be adapted to many and varied uses in the garden due to their diversification in form and shape. Vividly contrasting are AMANOGAWA, pyramidal in form and resembling a Lombardy Poplar, and SHIDARE HIGAN, or the Weeping Cherry, a medium-sized tree of great beauty with its swaying, drooping branches. The other varieties are nearly all the upright growing type, with wide spreading branches.

During the Summer the trees are an attractive green color, with glossy leaves. They are equal to any of our shade trees. In the Fall the leaves turn a bright scarlet and crimson, creating a riot of color.



In this planting of Kwanzan on Hains Point in Potomac Park at Washington (shown above), an effort was made to follow the Japanese manner of grouping the Flowering Cherries in twos and threes or threes and fives, to display and enhance their beauty.

The grouping of Japanese Flowering Cherry Trees illustrated at the right demonstrates how effectively they may be used along paths and driveways.

Garden lovers everywhere are learning to appreciate more and more the value in their gardens of these Oriental Flowering Trees with their gorgeous masses of pink and white blooms.





Pleasing effects may be obtained by using Japanese Flowering Cherry Trees where a complete screen is desired, as illustrated above in a view of a most successful planting on a private estate near Washington. The Trees likewise lend a varied and pleasing effect in shrub or border plantings.

A group of the Yoshino Flowering Cherry Trees planted on the Golf Course in Potomac Park (shown below), are an inspiration and a delight to all on the first balmy days of Spring.











FUGENZO—JAMES H. VEITCH—KOFUGEN (Prunus serrulata), (above), is one of the finest Japanese Cherries planted in the Park. Blooms after Yoshino, with double flowers, pink in color, becoming paler at the center. The leaves of dark bronze green appear with the flowers. The tree is of a spreading habit with a flat crown, about twenty to thirty feet tall.

HIGAN ZAKURA (Prunus subhirtella) (below). A rather small bushy tree, up to 25 feet in height. The general habit resembles the Japanese Plum. The flowers, somewhat larger and paler pink than those of the other Spring cherries, appear very early in the Spring in such vast numbers as to completely hide most of the branches.



Photo Courtesy Arnold Arboretum

AMAYADORI (Prunus Lannesiana), (top), blooms late in April, with semi-double white flowers pendulous in clusters of three at end of branchlets.

SIROTAE (Prunus Lannesiana), the very best of all the white cherries, blooms last of April or first of May, with double white flowers, light green leaves.

SHIROFUGEN (Prunus sachalinensis), flowers pink in the buds and gradually change to white as they open. These are the lightest colored of the pink tinted varieties, and very handsome.

MIKURUMUGAESHI, (center), meaning "Looking Backward from the Carriage," implying unusual beauty. The blooms are pinkish white, single or nearly single, and very numerous. About 1½ inches wide. Appears about the middle of April.

AMANOGAWA (Prunus Lannesiana Erecta)—"Heaven's River" or "Milky Way." A beautiful form and very distinctive in its habit of growth, branches fastigate: the flowers are semi-double pink and are upright on short stems, seeming to cover the branches. The blossoms have a delightful fragrance. Because of its columnar growth, this tree is well adapted to small gardens, and as an accent in a shrub border.

TAKINIOI, (bottom). The name signified "Flowing Cataract." The tree is of spreading habit, with brownish-gray bark. The single white flowers are freely produced and very fragrant, borne in clusters of three or four.





SHIDARE HIGAN or WEEPING CHERRY (Prunus subhirtella pendula). A small tree, of drooping branches, with rose pink flowers blooming in profusion before the foliage appears. One of the handsomest, early-flowering varieties, Shidare Higan is a most valuable lawn tree.



[Fourteen]

# Approbation\*

"Regarding the trees that you sent to me last spring, Japanese Flowering Cherry Trees. They were immediately set out and they are in beautiful condition so far as I can see, nicely leaved out. The young trees are beautiful in themselves. I am very much pleased with them and shall try and protect them through the winter so they will come out well in the spring. They are fully up to my expectations. So far every one is alive."

Middle Street, Lowell, Mass.

"The Japanese Cherry Tree sent to me in the spring was delivered in fine condition and I planted it according to the directions. You would be quite satisfied could you see how well it has done this summer. In fact we are quite proud of it and I'm sure will enjoy its beauties more each year as it blossoms."

Elderwood Avenue,

Pelham, N. Y.

"I am happy to say that up to the present time my Japanese Flowering Cherries seem to be prosperous and have all lived, but would have done better had my ground been better prepared in advance, but being an entirely new place I did not have the time, etc. I hope to have more from you another season, and will report again then."

Southampton, N. Y.

"I am glad to say the Japanese Flowering Cherry Trees you sold me this spring seem to be doing very well. While they did not flower this year, the leaf growth is good and I hope for very nice results next spring. I would be glad to show the trees to anyone interested in them if you will advise me."

Katonah, N. Y.

"The Japanese Flowering Cherries received from you in May are progressing beautifully and have leaved out around the top luxuriantly. We are well pleased with them."

St. Michaels, Md.

"I am glad to report that the Japanese Flowering Cherries I purchased from you last spring are growing nicely, although I was very uneasy about them when they first came as they were so far advanced in leaf. I kept them well watered, however, and they have done very well."

Charlottesville, Va.

"I am pleased to report that my Japanese Flowering Cherry Tree is doing very nicely."

Printing Crafts Building, New York, N. Y.

"I am pleased to advise you that they (the Japanese Cherry trees) which you sent me this spring, are doing very well. and are apparently in a very healthy condition. I appreciate your attention, and do not anticipate we will have any trouble with these trees."

Parkersburg, W. Va.

"The four Japanese Flowering Cherries are doing very nicely."

Cambridge, Ohio.

"The Cherry Trees which I bought from you are growing very nicely and I believe will make very nice trees." Needham Heights, Mass.

"The cherry trees are growing well."

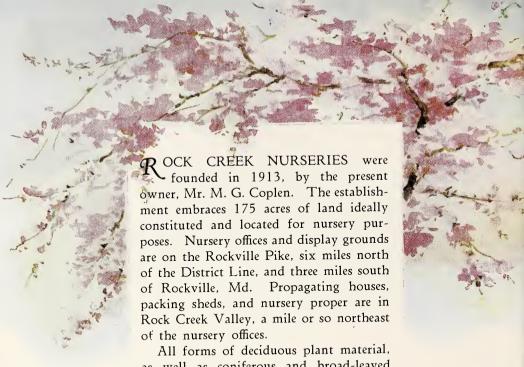
Prescott Avenue.

Montclair, N. J.

"I was pleasantly surprised to find the cherry trees on my return from Europe. \* \* \* They are doing very fine."

East Lake of Isles Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn.

<sup>\*</sup>Originals of these letters are on file at our office, and are open for inspection at any time. Note particularly that our Japanese Flowering Cherry Trees are successfully grown in practically every part of the United States.



All forms of deciduous plant material, as well as coniferous and broad-leaved evergreens are handled, including many rare varieties, such as Retinosporas, Yews of the Japanese type, etc. Boxwood, Roses, and Japanese Flowering Cherries are

specialties.

8

# ROCK CREEK NURSERIES

M. G. COPLEN, Owner

"It's Not a Home Until It's Planted"

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Nursery Offices Rockville, Maryland Phone Kensington 232

Banking References: McLachlen Banking Corporation, Washington, D. C. Montgomery County National Bank, Rockville, Md.



To MR. M. G. COPLEN,  Rock Creek Nurseries, McLachlen Bank Building, Washington, D. C.  Please ship the following plant material to:		
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Street Address		
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Town County State		
QUANTITY NAME OF VARIETY	8IZE UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
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TOTAL	\$	The state of the s
May we substitute similar varieties or next size if sold out of varieties or sizes		
ordered?		
P. O. Money Order—Bank Draft—Express Money Order—Check—for \$is enclosed herewith.		
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PRICES, All Varieties (Except Yoshino, Beni-Higan and Shidare-		

# Higan, the Weeping Cherry)

2 to 3 ft., \$2.50 5 to 6 ft., \$6.50 3 to 4 ft., \$4.00

4 to 5 ft., \$5.00 6 to 7 ft., \$7.50

Shidare-Higan (the Weeping Cherry), 6 ft. Stems, Two-year Heads, \$6.50

YOSHINO and BENI-HIGAN

2 to 3 ft., \$1.50 5 to 6 ft., \$5.00

3 to 4 ft., \$3.00

4 to 5 ft., \$4.00 6 to 7 ft., \$6.00

We pay transportation charges on all orders of \$10 and over.

GUARANTEE: If trees are taken from the station and planted promptly and according to directions on shipping tag, any that do not live through the first growing season will be replaced free of charge the following planting season. All trees are guaranteed to be true to name and up to grade and quality ordered.



#### CONIFEROUS EVERGREENS

Biota, Rosedale

Pfitzer Juniper (Juniperus pfitzeriana)

Savin Juniper (Juniperus sabina)

Prostrate Juniper (Juniperus communis prostrata)

Creeping Juniper (Juniperus horizontalis)

Globe Juniper (Juniper chinesis globosa)

Dwarf Mountain Pine (Pinus montana mughus)

Japanese Yew (Taxus cuspidata)

Dwarf Japanese Yew (Taxus cuspidata brevifolia)

Globe Arborvitæ (Thuja occidentalis globosa)

Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga douglasi)

Common Juniper (Juniperus communis)

Spiny Creek Juniper (Juniperus excelsa stricta)

Silver Cedar (Juniperus virginiana glauca)

Red Cedar (Juniperus virginiana)

Chinese Juniper (Juniperus chinesis)

Swedish Juniper (Juniperus communis suecica)

Irish Juniper (Juniperus communis hibernica)

Norway Spruce (Picea excelsa)

Colorado Blue Spruce (Picea pungens glauca)

Austrian Pine (Pinus nigra)

White Pine (Pinus strobus)

Plume-like Cypress (Retinospora plumosa)

Douglas Golden Arborvitæ (Thuja occidentalis douglasi)

Heath Retinospora (Thuja occidentalis ericoides)

Dwarf Golden Arborvitæ (Thuja aurea nana)

Chinese Golden Arborvitæ (Thuja orientalis aurea)

Hovey's Arborvitæ (Thuja occidentalis hoveyi)

American Arborvitæ (Thuja occidentalis)

Pyramidal Arborvitæ (Thuja occidentalis pyramidalis)

Standish Arborvitæ (Thuja standishi)

Siberian Arborvitæ (Thuja occidentalis wareana)

Canadian Hemlock (Tsuga canadensis)

#### BROAD-LEAVED EVERGREENS

Azalea amœna

Azalea hinodegiri

Azalea indica, assorted varieties

Japanese Andromeda (Pieris japonica)

Abelia (Abelia grandiflora)

Boxwood (Buxus)

Cotoneaster, in varieties

Euonymus, in variety

Japanese Holly (Ilex crenata)

Mountain Laurel (Kalmia latifolia)

Lonicera nitida

Rhododendrons in variety

Japanese Privet (Ligustrum Lucidum)

Limited space in this folder prevents giving a complete list of the trees, shrubs and plants growing in our nurseries. However, we are prepared to supply almost any plant adapted to open-ground growing. Special prices will be quoted on those listed herein.

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#### FLOWERING SHRUBS

Azaleas, in variety

Japanese Barberry (Berberis thunbergi)

Butterfly Bush (Buddleia davidi magnifica)

Desmodium (Desmodium penduliflorum)

Slender Deutzia (Deutzia gracilis)

Lemoine's Deutzia (Deutzia lemoinei)

Dwarf Pink Deutzia (Deutzia rosea)

Large-flowered Deutzia, Pride of Rochester

Pink Weigela (Weigela rosea)

White Weigela (Diervilla hybrida candida)

Red Weigela (Diervilla hybrida, Eva Rathke)

Burning Bush (Euonymus alatus)

European Burning Bush (Euonymus europæus)

Hydrangea Hills of Snow (Hydrangea arborescens arandiflora)

Fragrant Bush Honeysuckle (Lonicera fragrantissima)

Pink Bush Honeysuckle (Lonicera grandiflora rosa)
Japanese Bush Honeysuckle (Lonicera morrowi)

White Bush Honeysuckle (Lonicera tatarica alba)

Red Bush Honeysuckle (Lonicera tatarica rubra)

Red Japanese Rose (Rosa rugosa)

White Japanese Rose (Rosa rugosa alba)

Dwarf Crimson Spirea (Spirea Anthony Waterei)

Billiard's Pink Plume Spirea (Spiræa billardi)
Golden Spirea (Spiræa opulifolia aurea)

Thunberg's Spirea (Spira thunberai)

Van Houtte's Bridal Wreath (Spircea vanhouttei)

Juneberry (Amelanchier canadensis)

Five-leaved Angelica (Acanthopanax pentaphyllum)

Hercules' Club (Aralia spinosa)

Beauty Fruit (Callicarpa purpurea)

Carolina Allspice (Calycanthus floridus)

Japan Quince (Cydonia japonica)

Redbud (Cercis canadensis)

Sweet Pepper Bush (Clethra alnifolia)
Red-stemmed Dogwood (Cornus alba sibirica)

White-flowered Dogwood (Cornus florida)

Yellow-stemmed Dogwood (Cornus lutea)

Fortune's Forsythia (Forsythia fortunei)

Golden Bell (Forsythia suspensa)

#### FLOWERING SHRUBS-Continued

Panicled Hydrangea (Hydrangea Pee Gee)

Regel's Privet (Ligustrum regelianum)

Golden Mockorange (Philadelphus coronarius aureus)

Mockorange (Philadelphus coronarius)

Lemoine's Mockorange (Philadelphus lemoinei)

New Semi-double Mockorange (Philadelphus, Virginal)

Snowbank Mockorange (Philadelphus nivalis)

Fragrant Sumac (Rhus canadensis)

Smoke Tree (Rhus cotinus)

Cut-leaved Staghorn Sumac (Rhus typhina laciniata)

Snowberry (Symphoricarpos racemosus)

Coralberry (Symphoricarpos vulgaris)

Common Purple Lilac (Syringa vulgaris)

Common White Lilac (Syringa vulgaris alba)

French Hybrids (Syringa, budded)

Rouen Lilac (Syringa rothomagensis)

Arrowwood (Viburnum dentatum)

Wayfaring Tree (Viburnum lantana)

High-Bush Cranberry (Viburnum opulus)

Snowball (Viburnum opulus sterile)

Japanese Snowball (Viburnum tomentosum plicatum)

#### SHADE TREES

American Ash (Flaxinus americana)

American Elm (Ulmus americana)

Cut-leaved White Birch (Betula alba)

European White Birch (Betula alba) Umbrella Catalpa (Catalpa bungei)

Cockspur Thorn (Cratægus crusgalli)

Scarlet Thorn (Cratægus coccinea)

Purple-leaved Plum (Prunus pissardi)

White-flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida)
Kentucky Coffee Tree (Gumnocladus canadensis)

Maidenhair Tree (Ginkgo biloba)

Norway Maple (Acer platanoides)
Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)

Silver Maple (Acer dasycarpum)

Scarlet Maple (Acer rubrum)

Pink Oak (Quercus palustris)

Red Oak (Quercus rubra)

Lombardy Poplar (Populus nigra fastigiata)

Japanese Storax (Styrax japonica)

Sweet Gum (Liquidambar styracislua)
Oriental Plane (Platanus orientalis)

Tulip Tree (Liriodendron tulipifera)

Pussy Willow (Salix caprea)

Weeping Willow (Salix babylonica)

Laurel-leaved Willow (Salix laurifolia)

#### ORNAMENTAL FLOWERING CRABS

MALUS ANGUSTIFOLIA, a flat-topped, wide-branching tree; very thorny branches, with fragrant pink blossoms that open late. Hardy in Massachusetts, and for the warmer states one of the best crabs.

MALUS ATROSANGUINEA, a wide-crowned tree with carmine-colored flowers; resembles floribunda in habit of growth.

MALUS BACCATA, a large tree with white, or pink blending to white, flowers; fragrant. Fruit good for jelly as well as ornamental.

MALUS PURPUREA, a tree attaining a height of 15 to 20 feet; purple leaves, deep red blossoms. A very notable addition to any planting.

MALUS SCHEDECKERI, of pyramidal habit with semi-double blossoms, very abundant. A most conspicuous pink flowering tree of early spring.

MALUS SIEBOLDI ABORESCENS, a broad-crowned tree attaining a height of 15 to 18 feet; white blossoms, rose pink in the bud, with red or yellow fruit about the size of a garden pea.

MALUS SPECTABILIS, the Chinese Crab, has a vase-shaped crown about 20 to 30 feet tall; double pink flowers. The oldest known variety of the Oriental Crabs, and one of the very best.

MALUS FLORIBUNDA, a broad, round-topped headed tree with tangles of branches and masses of clustered flowers, rose pink in the bud, but turning to white when in full bloom. As the buds open in succession the contrast is beautiful.

MALUS ELEYI, one of the newer varieties of the Flowering Crabs, with purpleto red foliage. When planted in the sun the leaves are quite brilliant and remain so until fall. The tree is a mass of large clusters of flowers during the blooming period.

MALUS SARGENTII, a very low growing tree of spreading habit, producing an abundance of white flowers and brilliant red fruit which persists most of the Winter. Very popular, especially for use in small gardens.

#### AN EXCELLENT ASSORTMENT OF HYBRID TEA ROSES

These are extra field-grown, 2-year potted plants; have been tested for quality, are carefully pruned, and ready for immediate planting. Your choice of any 12 varieties \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\$10

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